

Aspidistra chishuiensis (Ruscaceae), a new species from Guizhou, China

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A new species, *Aspidistra chishuiensis* S.Z. He & W.F. Xu (Ruscaceae), is described and illustrated from northern Guizhou, China. It is similar to *A. flaviflora*, but differs in its purple perianth, 3.5 mm long lobes, stamens that are adnate at the middle of the tube, stigma that is ca. 8 mm in diam., and the berry that is nearly smooth.

Key words: *Aspidistra*, Ruscaceae, new species, taxonomy

When investigating medical plants in Asphole National Natural Reserve, Chishui, Guizhou in 2004, we found a specimen of *Aspidistra* with a purple bell-shaped flower. Similar specimens were also found in Changqiangou National Natural Reserve, Xishui, Guizhou in 2008. A survey of the literature (Lang *et al.* 1999, He 2002, Li 2004, Tillich 2005, 2006, 2007), revealed that these specimens represent an undescribed species.

Aspidistra chishuiensis S.Z. He & W.F. Xu
sp. nova (Fig. 1)

Species A. flaviflorae K.Y. Lang & Z.Y. Zhu *affinis*, a quae perianthiis purpureis, lobis ca. 3.5 mm longis, staminibus tubis corollarum dimidiis supra basin insertis, stigmatibus ca. 8 mm in diametro, baccis fere laevis differt.

ETYMOLOGY. The species is named after its type locality, Chishui Xian, northern Guizhou, China.

HOLOTYPE: China. Guizhou province, Chishui Xian, Asphole National Natural Reserve, under the shrubbery in the

valley, 27.VII.2003, S.Z. He & W.F. Xu 0307045 (HGCM). — PARATYPE: China. Guizhou province, Xishui Xian, Changqiangou National Natural Reserve, 5.VIII.2008, S.Z. He *et al.* 080805 (HGCM).

Perennial herb. Rhizome creeping, subterete, 4–6 mm in diam., the rooting at nodes, covered with scales. Sheathing leaves 3–5, purplish-red, 3–15 cm long, fibrous when withered. Leaves solitary, 1–3 cm apart; petioles 28–50 cm, rigid and sulcate; blades elliptic-lanceolate, 22–38 cm long, 6–7.5 cm wide, green with yellowish-white spots, apex acuminate, margin entire, base cuneate, tapering to petioles. Flower solitary, erect, peduncle 2–3 cm. Bracts 3–4, broadly ovate, 6–7 mm long, 5–6 mm wide, purple. Perianth campanulate, 1.5–1.7 cm long, 8–9 cm across, purple, fleshy; tube 1.3–1.5 cm long, ca. 8–9 mm in diam.; lobes 6, ca. 3.5 mm long, ca. 3 mm wide. Stamens 6, adnate to middle of tube; anthers oblong, ca. 3.2 mm long, ca. 1.8 mm wide. Pistil obconical, ca. 1 cm long with 6 longitudinal ridges gradually broadening from base to top; stigma ca. 8 mm in diam., convex

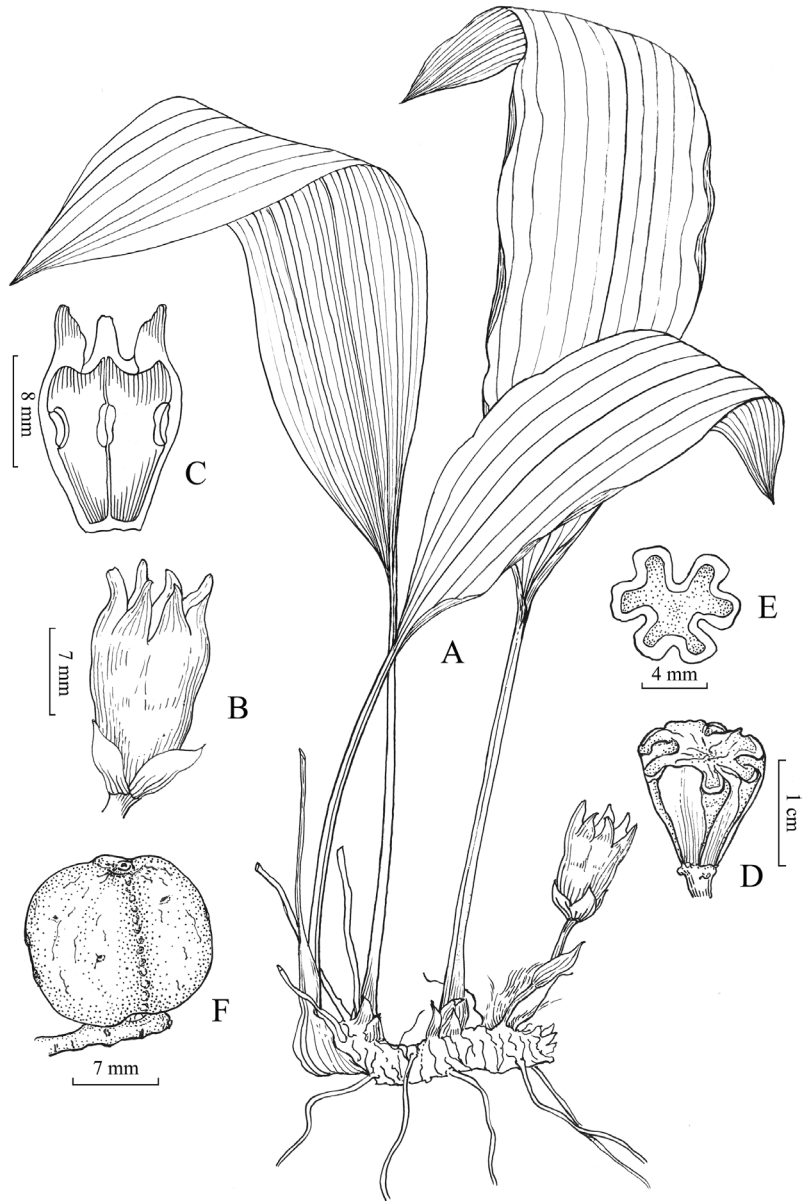


Fig. 1. *Aspidistra chishuiensis* (from the holotype, drawn by Xiang-Li Wu). — **A:** Habit. — **B:** Flower. — **C:** Longitudinal section of flower. — **D:** Pistil. — **E:** Top surface of stigma. — **F:** Fruit.

centrally, 3-lobed at margin, lobes deeply bifoliate. Ovary 3-loculed; ovules 2 per locule. Berry ovoid, 1.2–1.4 cm in diam., nearly smooth. Flowering and fruiting July–August.

Aspidistra chishuiensis is rather similar to *A. flaviflora*. The latter species is different in its perianth yellow, 5–7 mm long lobes, stamens that are adnate to 1/4 of the corolla tube, stigma that is 3–4 mm in diameter, and the berry that is tuberculate.

Aspidistra chishuiensis is known from

Chishui and Xishui counties in northern Guizhou, China. It grows in shrubbery in valleys at an altitude of 700–800 m.

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